the Sultanate of Delhi in 1340, Hindu society suffered not a little from the depredations of the Mohammedans. But there is little evidence to show what were the feelings of the Hindus during this period of conquest, though the chroniclers of Rajputana called their enemies "Asuras," i.e. the traditional foes of the Aryan gods. The assured position of the invaders prevented their assimilation into the Brahmanical system like the Sakas or Huns, and established their separateness, and, oddly enough, it safeguarded the Brahmanical polity and prevented its dissolution. This separateness was established by the lack of any necessity to compromise with the Hindu polity. As conquerors and governors, they seized the capital cities, maintained in splendour provincial courts, gathered taxes and revenues, built gorgeous palaces and mosques. It was a purely military and administrative rule; they formed a kind of military aristocracy. It carried on the traditions of mid-Asia, and was far removed from the constitutional monarchies and popular republics of an earlier India. But as we have seen, it left intact the traditional social and religious polity of India, which was carried on in village communities far away from the disturbances of political conquests. This may explain the fact that the Muslim rule in India produced relatively little social discord, and one must also add the fact that till the time of Aurungzeb it was extraordinarily tolerant. For instance, it was forbidden to kill cows promiscuously out of deference to Hindu sentiment.

When this policy was reversed, a letter of protest was sent to Aurungzeb :*"If your majesty places any faith in those books by distinction called divine, you will there be instructed that God is the God of all mankind, not the God of the Mohammedans alone. The Pagan and the Mussulman are equally in His Presence. Distinctions of colour are of His ordination. It is He who gives existence,